



## Chief Harjo delivers State of the Nation address

Joe Clay  
Staff Writer  
clay.j@sno-nsn.gov

*Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo delivered his yearly State of the Nation address on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Mekusukey Mission during the 47th Annual Seminole Nation Days Festival. The following is a transcript of his speech.*

I wanted to welcome you to the 47th Annual Seminole Nation Days and I want to extend my gratitude to President Cyprus, coming to visit us. He comes every year, we've always pressed him into service, we appreciate you coming and visiting with us. I want to thank the representatives of the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, members of the supreme district courts and most importantly, to you our members and our guest and their guest around the arena and the grounds. Thank you for coming this afternoon. We hope you enjoy your visit here at the Seminole Nation.

It's probably one of the better days we've had in a long time in terms of

a cool breeze and nice sunshine. Enjoy the day the Creator has given us. We have a number of activities you can enjoy and we hope you do so.

It is my privilege as Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation to deliver again the State of the Nation address to the Seminole people. Although we are making progress toward our long-term goals of rebuilding a Sovereign Nation, as Assistant Chief said earlier, we continue to face significant challenges in making that goal a reality. Fiscal year 2015 will be generally remembered within the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma as the period of limited growth in spite of that we've had some significant accomplishments that I wish to make note of. Probably the greatest accomplishment we've had this year that most of our people have been able to enjoy is the General Council's approval of the one time assistance payment of \$600 to all members of the Seminole Nation by blood on May 16, 2013. In April, the enrollment office certified 16,072 to be eligible for the payment. 1,134 members were added

to the certification process, which ended July 15, 2015. By July 23 a totally of 14,547 payments had been issued. When the application process closed on July 15, 2015 some 2,659 eligible members had not submitted an application for payment. For that reason I asked the General Council to re-open the application period, the General Council agreed to this request to set a new and final deadline for participation at September 22, 2015. That date ladies and gentlemen is Tuesday.

If we received your application after July 15, we will process and mail your payment at earliest possible opportunity.

If you know someone who has not received this \$600 payment, please encourage them to submit an update/application form to the enrollment office by September 22, 2015. Payments to un-enrolled eligible minors for who have an update application form is received by September 22, 2015 will be initiated once their enrollment card is issued. The enrollment office is set up at booth 22. If you believe you're eligible for

the payment and have not received it please stop by booth 22 and put an application in. Under the terms of the resolution, you must have an update application on file for you to receive a payment so please take advantage of the opportunity. If you know someone who believes they have not been paid and they're eligible, the forms are also available online. Enrollment will tell you how you can get those in by Tuesday.


I hope every eligible member will take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the program. Again Assist Chief Johnson said that we are making modest progress but many times modest progress is the best progress towards reestablishing the capacity of the Seminole Nation but more importantly the Seminole people to feed itself and ourselves. I believe as your Principal Chief, I believe it's critical for any sovereign nation to have that ability. For the past several years, tribal staff and community members have been working to develop strategies and opportunities to






VRAKKUECETV  
VFASTECETV  
FVCCETV  
VNOECKV  
MERRETV  
EM VNICETV

## Executive Office



**MEKKO**  
**PRINCIPAL CHIEF**  
**LEONARD M. HARJO**  
**PANTHER CLAN - TUSEXIA HARJO BAND**



**MEKKO APOKYV**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF**  
**LEWIS J. JOHNSON**  
**DEER CLAN - OGESIE BAND**



The *Cokv Tvlvme* is published monthly by the Seminole Nation Communications Department and is the official publication of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information.

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Please notify the *Cokv Tvlvme* management of any error or unfair treatment, so that proper adjustment or correction can be made.

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The *Cokv Tvlvme* is the legal publication of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. As such, it is the publication legally qualified to publish official and/or legal notice as required by law.

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Submission deadline is the third Friday of each month

## Newspaper Staff

**JOE CLAY**

EDITOR, STAFF WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER

CLAY.J@SNO-NSN.GOV

**JARED ROBINSON**

STAFF WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER

ROBINSON.J@SNO-NSN.GOV



SeminoleNation



@SeminoleNation\_



A member of NAJA

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# address

**continued from front page**

begin accomplishing this lofty goal. Thanks to the leadership of Assistant Chief Johnson, the Seminole Nation as he mentioned earlier is forming the partnerships with educational institutions, private foundations and members of our community to help make the dream of food sovereignty a reality. Again as mentioned earlier, one of the most visible results of this effort is a working model of an aquaponics system and not to repeat everything that was said. It is a simple process that adds fish to a traditional hydroponics process creating a natural system for growing plants and fish. Initially this plan will be used to provide seedlings for member gardening efforts but it has commercialization capabilities so some of you get more interested and gaining understanding how this process can be used. We would hope that some of you would take this process on your own property and use it to create extra income or build whatever level of income you would like for yourselves.

Financially fiscal year 2015 considerably continued recent challenges to our ability to meet your expectations for more programs and services. The Seminole Nation pays for its governmental activities programs and services from revenues from three basic sources. Number one is our federal grants and contracts, number two is the judgment fund trust account earnings and the third are tribal sources such as our license tag sales, state motor fuel and tobacco compact distributions, distributions for the division of commerce and gaming enterprise transfers. For example, while revenue from our trust federal grants we modestly, revenues from the judgment fund trust account continue to climb in 2015 and revenues from our gaming enterprise transfers continue to be less than their projections. It became clear earlier this year that the nation would receive less than the budget amount of revenue from the gaming enterprise. At that time the executive office, treasury’s office, finance committee and tribal staff began working diligently and continue to work diligently with the General Council to reduce budgets spending levels so that planned expenditures match expected revenues as the fiscal year 2015 comes to a close. No reductions in federally funded programs were service budgets made. Despite what you may have heard, the Seminole Nation is not or ever has it been in any danger of shutdown due to revenue short falls. Careful cash management is and always has been the highest priority of your treasurer and Principal Chief together with the directors, finance committee and general council we have successfully matched the cash requirements of the nation to actual revenues for six years.

In May the general manager of the Seminole Nation of Gaming Enterprise left to become president of his tribal council. In July, the finance committee asked the new gaming enterprise management team to review the proposed fiscal year 2016 gaming enterprise budget. Their revisions, the gaming enterprise budget proposal, was approved by the general council on September 5, 2015 and reduced gaming enterprise transfers of the nation for the fiscal year by approximately \$800,000. On September 5, 2015 the budget officer was able to present to the council combination revenue adjustments so that we will be able to produce a budget to go forward. We’ll continue working with the council on the FY16 budget until projected revenues match expenditures. So far we have been able to make planned expenditure adjustments without affecting current member service levels. We recognize that the lack of growth in our revenues is not acceptable to the Seminole people and we will continue to press our revenue generating entities to improve their performance for the fiscal year 2016 and beyond.

As Assistant Chief Johnson mentioned one area of serious concern to the executive office and to the general council is the impact of declining revenues from the judgment fund trust account. On June 30, 2015, the value of the judgment fund federal trust account was \$39,363,345. The estimated annual income for the 12 months ending in June 30, 2015, was \$1,148,900 for 2.93% for the year. The approved judgment fund budget for the fiscal year 2016 is \$1,405,639. Judgment fund programs such as clothing assistance, higher education, elderly assistance, burial assistance and household assistance program are funded entirely from the judgment fund trust account. Approximately three years ago the trust fund manager reported to the general council that we needed to earn at least 4.2% annually to maintain the budget benefit levels that were present at that time. Interest rates have continued to stay well below that as I previously stated. Many of our members depend on the assistance they receive from the judgment fund programs and as a result the general council is always reluctant to adjust benefit levels even though we spend more than we earn. Spending more than we earn reduces the judgment fund trust account balance, which in turn reduces annual earnings the following year. The gradual decline in the judgment fund trust account balance means our annual income must increase significantly to stabilize program benefit levels. To illustrate, in the fiscal year 2013, the last year that many judgment fund program benefits would be available at their old levels, the judgment fund budget was just over

\$2,600,00. Today a budget of this size requires an estimated annual income of 6.83% on a \$39 million investment fund. The legal limitations on investment options available to our federal trust fund account make achieving an annual earnings rate much higher than the 2.93%, we are receiving right now, extremely difficult. Our annual earnings rate needs to be higher at least 4.25% or more. With the continued decline in annual interest earnings on the federal trust fund, further reduction in judgment fund and program benefits are coming unless we act quickly and boldly. The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, despite these and other well-known limitations such as lack of land base have always had a multitude of opportunities that go unrealized and tribal members and casual observers often ask me why. When asked this question recently I answered, “We have become afraid of succeeding so much so that we approach each new opportunity by aggressively looking for reasons the project will fail. We don’t say what do we do to make it work, we say this is why it won’t, and we just keep going.” Just think of what we could achieve if we applied that same effort to identifying the keys to success and everyone sitting around in this arena that will ultimately listen to me knows what I’m talking about. If we just applied that same thought to what it takes to succeed, what could we be?

As an example of what we could possibly achieve, to most outside observers a solution to our judgment trust fund is very simple, move the investment fund from federal manage to privately managed trust fund account. Under a conservative investment plan and present market conditions, private fund managers believe and often tell us they can produce annual earnings of 6-8%. Since its inception the idea of moving the judgment fund trust account to private management has been met with considerable resistance within in the nation but to have a chance to reverse the downward spiral the program benefits to the Seminole people, we will have to give this option serious consideration. On September 5, 2015, the General Council of the Seminole Nation passed a resolution to dedicate the executive office and the general council to the pursuit and hopefully successful conclusion settlement from one of our most long-standing claims against the United States. Most Seminole people know that one half of the mineral interest under the Seminole Nation which is basically Seminole county was to have been reserved to the benefit of all future generations of Seminole people as a result of our allotment agreement. In 1908 the federal government without consulting the Seminole Nation eliminated that opportunity for our people. Since the 1950s we have



# legislation

VHAKV



## General Council Special Meeting October 17, 2015

### Unfinished Business

#### • Tribal Ordinance 2015-61

A verbal tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing a forensic audit of the Seminole Nation, including: the Seminole Nation Division of Commerce; Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprises; Seminole Nation Gaming Agency; Business and Corporate Regulatory Commission; and Seminole Nation Housing Authority from FY 2002 to present to be paid for from remaining household assistance funds.

*sponsored by Charlie Hill*  
**REMAIN TABLED**

#### • Tribal Ordinance 2015-64

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the naming of the softball fields at the Mekusukey Mission to be officially known as the Thunderbird Complex.

*sponsored by Cheri Hardeman*  
**Withdrawn**

### Reports of Programs

Fiscal Services  
Social Services Department  
Wildlife, Park & Recreation  
ASAP  
Tribal Employment Rights  
Judgment Fund Office  
Food Distribution Program  
Veteran Affairs Office  
Transportation Department  
Job Placement & Training  
CDIB/Enrollement  
Community Health Rep.  
Historic Preservation Office  
Public Transit  
Higher Education  
Program Developemnt

#### • Tribal Ordinance 2015-09

Ordinance amending the Seminole Nation Court administration code, codified at title two of the Seminole Nation Code of Laws.  
*sponsored by Wayne Shaw*

#### APPROVED 22-2-1

Mekusukey: <b>yes, yes</b>	Fushutche: <b>yes, yes</b>
Eufaula: <b>yes, yes</b>	Rewalke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Tusekia Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Hvteyievlke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Nurcup Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Tom Palmer: <b>yes, yes</b>
Hecete: <b>abst</b>	Tallahassee: <b>yes, yes</b>
Ocese: <b>no, no</b>	Ceyvha: <b>yes, yes</b>
Bruner: <b>yes, yes</b>	Dosar Barkus:

#### • Tribal Ordinance 2015-10

Ordinance amending the Seminole Nation attorney general code, codified at title two of the Seminole Nation Code of Laws.  
*sponsored by Wayne Shaw*

#### APPROVED 20-4-1

Mekusukey: <b>yes, yes</b>	Fushutche: <b>yes, yes</b>
Eufaula: <b>yes, yes</b>	Rewalke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Tusekia Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Hvteyievlke: <b>no, no</b>
Nurcup Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Tom Palmer: <b>yes, yes</b>
Hecete: <b>abst</b>	Tallahassee: <b>yes, yes</b>
Ocese: <b>no, no</b>	Ceyvha: <b>yes, yes</b>
Bruner: <b>yes, yes</b>	Dosar Barkus:

#### • Tribal Resolution 2015-11

Ordinance amending the employee and of-ficer salaries chapter of the Seminole Nation employment relations code, codified at title eleven, section 301 of the Seminole Nation Code of Laws.

*sponsored by LeEtta Sampson*

#### APPROVED 17-8-0

Mekusukey: <b>no, no</b>	Fushutche: <b>yes, yes</b>
Eufaula: <b>yes, yes</b>	Rewalke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Tusekia Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Hvteyievlke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Nurcup Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Tom Palmer: <b>no, no</b>
Hecete: <b>yes</b>	Tallahassee: <b>no, no</b>
Ocese: <b>yes, yes</b>	Ceyvha: <b>no, no</b>
Bruner: <b>yes, yes</b>	Dosar Barkus:

#### • Tribal Resolution 2015-73

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the Seminole Nation executive office and the program development department to apply for Indian Community Development block grant funding, and authorizing administration, if funded.

*sponsored by Abrahan Farani*

#### APPROVED 13-12-0

Mekusukey: <b>no, no</b>	Fushutche: <b>yes, yes</b>
Eufaula: <b>no, no</b>	Rewalke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Tusekia Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Hvteyievlke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Nurcup Harjo: <b>no, no</b>	Tom Palmer: <b>no, no</b>
Hecete: <b>yes</b>	Tallahassee: <b>no, no</b>
Ocese: <b>yes, yes</b>	Ceyvha: <b>no, no</b>
Bruner: <b>yes, yes</b>	Dosar Barkus:

#### • Tribal Resolution 2015-74

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma authorizing the Principal Chief to sign a juvenile inmate detention agreement with the Sac and Fox juvenile detention facility  
*sponsored by Ralph Coker*

#### APPROVED 25-0-0

Mekusukey: <b>yes, yes</b>	Fushutche: <b>yes, yes</b>
Eufaula: <b>yes, yes</b>	Rewalke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Tusekia Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Hvteyievlke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Nurcup Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Tom Palmer: <b>yes, yes</b>
Hecete: <b>yes</b>	Tallahassee: <b>yes, yes</b>
Ocese: <b>yes, yes</b>	Ceyvha: <b>yes, yes</b>
Bruner: <b>yes, yes</b>	Dosar Barkus:

#### • Tribal Resolution 2015-75

Resolution approving and agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S Treasury Department for the equitable sharing of federally forfeited cash, property, proceeds and interest earned thereon.

*sponsored by Karen Fullbright*

#### APPROVED 25-0-0

Mekusukey: <b>yes, yes</b>	Fushutche: <b>yes, yes</b>
Eufaula: <b>yes, yes</b>	Rewalke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Tusekia Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Hvteyievlke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Nurcup Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Tom Palmer: <b>yes, yes</b>
Hecete: <b>yes</b>	Tallahassee: <b>yes, yes</b>
Ocese: <b>yes, yes</b>	Ceyvha: <b>yes, yes</b>
Bruner: <b>yes, yes</b>	Dosar Barkus:

#### • Tribal Resolution 2015-76

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma appointing Daniel Factor to the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation.

*sponsored by Susie Harjo*

#### Approved 19-6-0

Mekusukey: <b>yes, yes</b>	Fushutche: <b>yes, yes</b>
Eufaula: <b>no, no</b>	Rewalke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Tusekia Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Hvteyievlke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Nurcup Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Tom Palmer: <b>no, no</b>
Hecete: <b>yes</b>	Tallahassee: <b>no, no</b>
Ocese: <b>yes, yes</b>	Ceyvha: <b>yes, yes</b>
Bruner: <b>yes, yes</b>	Dosar Barkus:

#### • Tribal Resolution 2015-77

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma appointing Susue Harjo to the Seminole Nation Early Childhood Committee.

*sponsored by Abraham Farani*

#### APPROVED 19-6-0

Mekusukey: <b>yes, yes</b>	Fushutche: <b>yes, yes</b>
Eufaula: <b>yes, yes</b>	Rewalke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Tusekia Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Hvteyievlke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Nurcup Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Tom Palmer: <b>no, no</b>
Hecete: <b>yes</b>	Tallahassee: <b>no, no</b>
Ocese: <b>yes, yes</b>	Ceyvha: <b>no, no</b>
Bruner: <b>yes, yes</b>	Dosar Barkus:

#### • Tribal Resolution 2015-78

A tribal resolution of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma General Council confirming the reappointment of the honorable Gregory Bigler as Judge for the Seminole Nation Tribal Court.

*sponsored by Ida Gonzales*

#### Failed 9-14-2

Mekusukey: <b>no, no</b>	Fushutche: <b>abst, abst</b>
Eufaula: <b>yes, yes</b>	Rewalke: <b>no, no</b>
Tusekia Harjo: <b>yes, yes</b>	Hvteyievlke: <b>yes, yes</b>
Nurcup Harjo: <b>no, no</b>	Tom Palmer: <b>no, no</b>
Hecete: <b>yes</b>	Tallahassee: <b>no, no</b>
Ocese: <b>yes, yes</b>	Ceyvha: <b>no, no</b>
Bruner: <b>no, no</b>	Dosar Barkus:

WATCH COUNCIL MEETINGS  
ONLINE ANYTIME AT:

WWW.SNO-NSN.GOV



announcements

NAK-OK KER KUECETV

Birthdays

September 1 Manuel Noriega  
September 1 Andre Hernandez  
September 3 Melissa Harjo  
September 4 Rocky Harris  
September 5 Gabriel Wind  
September 6 Nickolas Dunn  
September 6 Marilyn Moore  
September 7 Andrea Larney  
September 8 Melissa Leonard  
September 10 Judith Jones  
September 11 Lori Proctor  
September 12 Ira Walker  
September 15 Kylia Pinson  
September 15 Melissa Holata  
September 16 Stephanie Puntka  
September 17 Barbara Jefferson  
September 18 Heather Marshall  
September 18 Jesse Wind  
September 22 Dewayne Tiger  
September 22 Denise Phillips  
September 24 Sadie Deatherage  
September 27 Jared Johnson  
September 27 Yvonne Holata  
September 30 Cheri Johnson  
September 30 Leigh Scott

October 1 Shyan Tiger  
October 1 Juandine Fifiel  
October 2 Roy Yargee  
October 2 Alec J. McKane  
October 4 Christine Neese  
October 5 Mecko Kalinich  
October 6 Betsy Harjo  
October 6 Alisha Sanders  
October 8 Obegin Douglas  
October 8 Lana Rattan  
October 8 Jordan Lyons  
October 8 Mandy Lyons  
October 8 Derrick Bourque  
October 9 Oscar Hernandez  
October 10 Loretta Bear  
October 11 Heather Napier  
October 11 Yahmy Fox  
October 12 Willis Deatherage  
October 14 Tara Redbird  
October 14 Tilda Harjo  
October 15 David Little  
October 15 Ryan Walker  
October 16 Chester Douglas  
October 16 Olivia Dancey  
October 19 Alec Nelson  
October 21 Kendric D. Deere  
October 24 Billye Leitka  
October 25 Sheila Swimmer  
October 26 Sierra Harjo  
October 26 Angel Hailey  
October 26 John Harp  
October 30 Glenna Van Zant  
October 30 Anna Walker  
October 30 Ashlee Mills  
October 31 Shannon Williams  
October 31 Rebecca Graham

If you would like to submit a birthday picture, anniversary or baby birth. Please email us at: media@sno-nsn.gov

contact  
Cokv Tvlvme

215 E. Evans Street  
Seminole, OK 74868  
media@sno-nsn.gov  
(405) 382 1010

SEMINOLE NATION  
DIABETES PROGRAM



STRETCHING FOR HEALTH

Location: Wewoka OAP  
Days: Mondays  
Time: 10:00 AM



Description: This group physical activity program will focus on improving the flexibility of individuals. Focus will be given to the whole body with different modes of stretching (e.g. sitting, standing, etc.).

For more information please call James Fife  
@ 405-234-5247



VETERANS DAY 2015



Veterans Day Ceremony

Veterans Day Holiday  
November 11, 2015  
9 a.m.  
Seminole Nation Veterans Cemetery  
35419 Hwy 59 \* Seminole, OK 74868  
Guests include:  
2015 Seminole Nation Princesses  
and  
2015 Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma  
Veterans and Friends of Veterans \* Everyone Invited

  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:  
K. Galen Greenwalt, Director of Veterans Affairs  
Office (405) 234-5242 Cell (951) 533-1407

Contact the Seminole Nation Human Resources Office at:

hr@sno-nsn.gov

to be added to HR's e-mail blast list and receive timely updates on vacancy announcements via personal e-mail.

call HR at (405) 257-7218 for more info



Etem Omvlkusën Kerrvkëts!  
Let's all learn together!

ONLINE MASKOKE  
LANGUAGE CLASSES

January 5<sup>th</sup>- February 11<sup>th</sup>  
Days: Tuesdays and Thursday  
Time: 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm  
Registration is required.

To register, please email frye.m@sno-nsn.gov with the following:  
First/Last Name, Email Address, Phone Number, and Tribal Enrollment Number.  
Registration is on a first come first serve basis, and is limited to the first 25 registrants.  
Requirements: High Speed (broadband) Internet Connection up to date web browser such as Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, or Safari  
The latest version of Adobe Flash Player  
If you will be using a smartphone, you must be able to download the free Adobe Connect Mobile app.  
Questions? Please email frye.m@sno-nsn.gov or call 405-380-6394.



Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion  
612 East Wrangler Boulevard  
Seminole, Oklahoma 74868

Cookie Extravaganza and Craft Fair

Just in time for Christmas Festivities!  
Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
1PM – 7PM  
Unique Gifts!! Over 30 Vendors!!

Cookie Extravaganza located in the Grisso Mansion  
Mix and match a variety of cookies and candies for \$10 per dozen. One dozen cookie purchase includes admission to mansion and tour. Cookie donations will be accepted on Friday at 9am-12pm or call to arrange for pick up.

Craft Fair located in the Annex  
Admission to Craft Fair is free. Vendors include Seminole patchwork, beadwork, paintings, vintage décor, jewelry, woodwork, and many more!

All proceeds go to the operation and restoration of the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion. For more information, call 405-683-2031 or email grissomansion@sno-nsn.gov

We would like to thank everyone who provided support during our loved one's sudden departure. We are especially grateful for High Springs Church and Rock Springs Church who helped the Cold Spring Church family with the funeral proceedings of their deacon. Whether you sent flowers and food, shared kind words, stories, or thought of us during this difficult time, it was greatly appreciated.

When he takes me by the hand,  
And leads me through the Promised Land,  
What a day, glorious day, that will be.  
-The family of Frank Johnson  
12/27/1950-06/30/2015



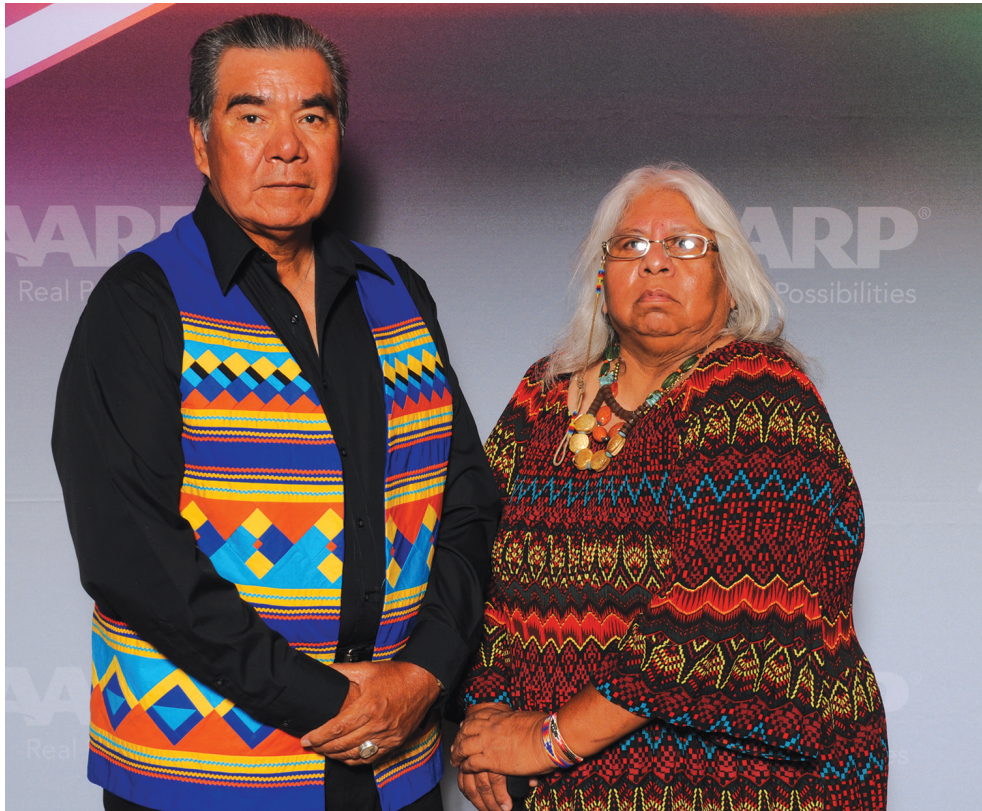


## Young Natives travels to Arizona

Joe Clay  
Staff Writer  
clay.j@sno-nsn.gov

On June 17-20, 2015 the Young Natives 12U baseball team traveled to Scottsdale, Ariz. to compete in the 17th Annual NABI baseball tournament. This was the first year for the Young Natives to compete in this tournament. In their division there were 28 teams. On June 17, they played against the San Lucy Wildcats defeating them 14-0. In their second game played on June 18, they played against the Ohkay Owingeh Orioles defeating them 13-1. The morning of June 19 they played against Outkast defeating them 10-0, that evening they moved into bracket play and came up short getting beat 6-3. The Young Natives placed 5th overall in the tournament.

The boys who played on the team were Chunda Hill, Seminole; Kyle Yargee, Seminole; Trenton Wolfe, Seminole; Noah Smith, Seminole; Cavin Pugh, Creek; Brendan Biffle, Chickasaw; Ty McCoy Western Cherokee, Gaylen Leetka, Seminole; Garrett Burgess, Seminole; Chris Giffis, Seminole; Kailas Mack, Absentee Shawnee, Dallen Hill, Seminole and Bat-Boy Grady Burgess, Seminole.



## Council Members receive award

Cokv Tvlvme  
Staff Report  
media@sno-nsn.gov

The 7th Annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors was held October 6, 2015 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. The AARP Oklahoma proudly recognized 50 Oklahoma Indian Elders for their contributions to their Tribal Nation, state and communities. Two Seminole Nation tribal members were selected as honorees, Nancy Fixico and Charlie Hill.

Seminole Nation General Council member Nancy Fixico is a member of the sweet potato clan, her heart belongs to her people. She fluently speaks her native language. She has served as a Chairman and Band Chief of the Eufaula Band and three terms as a General Council Representative. Ms. Fixico is an artist who has been involved with many programs including the Head Start- Child care Committee, Juvenile Taskforce and the Language Program.

Seminole Nation General Council member Charlie Hill lives a life of service. First as a retired member of the military and now as a General Council Representative for the Tallahassee Band. Mr. Hill is fluent in his native language and culture. He is known for going above and beyond to help his fellow tribal members and is a member of the New Hope Church.



## Ramirez Recieves Memorial Award

Cokv Tvlvme  
Staff Report  
media@sno-nsn.gov

This year at the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training conference in Durant, Seminole Nation tribal member received the Alice BigPond Memorial Award.

In 2009, Tiffany Ramirez completed her junior year at Eufaula high school in Eufaula, Okla. She applied for the WIA Summer Youth Program and was accepted.

As a summer youth, she was placed in the Career Service office as a receptionist. The next summer she showed interest in law and she was contracted part-time with the Seminole Nation Tribal Court for the next three summers. She started as a court runner; learning the day-to-day activities, she became familiar with the court process and terminology. She has served as the Court Specialist for the past two years. Ramirez has recently been hired as a permanent employee within the Probation department.

She also serves as a positive mentor to the children. She has made home visits to educate the kids about the court system, has taken them to local parks to participate in activities or just listen to them talk. During the tribal court camp, she assisted with the planning and organizing groups. She is involved in the Road Adoption program through the Probation program; and the juvenile Task Force created for youth in need of representation within the state and tribal court system.

Ramirez's education started at Seminole State College, and then continued at the University of Central Oklahoma, where she will graduate in December 2015 with a Bachelor in Criminal Justice with future plans to become a lawyer and a Tribal Judge.

Tiffany gives credit to her grandmother, the ideal leader in her life. She influenced her life and taught her leadership skills, to always listen, have integrity, be respectful to others, and if you fall get back up, and you can do anything if you put your mind to it.

Ramirez found her passion working with juveniles in the tribal court system; she can relate to them because she has been through similar struggles and understands how complicated life can be at times. Many Native American youths do not have positive role models in their lives; they need someone to listen to them. She believes if she can make a difference in their life, she has done her job of making a better community.



Seminole Nation Food & Nutrition Services at the Sasakwa Meet & Greet



culture + language

FULLETV & PUNV KV



Johnny Emarthle speaking at the Osceola Tallahassee Day at the Council House.

## Osceola Tallahassee Day

Joe Clay  
Staff Writer  
clay.j@sno-nsn.gov

The Seminole Nation Tallahassee band celebrated Osceola Tallhassee Day on August 22, 2015 at the Mekusukey Mission in Seminole. The honorary speaker for the day was Seminole Nation tribal member Johnny Emarthle.

Emarthle told the story about Osceola and said today by the grace of the Creator, we’re still here. “Its good to see people come out and be with the Tallahassee band,” added Emarthle.

The celebration started off with a potluck then continued with Emarthle speaking.

Tallahassee of the Seminole Tribe originally lived in northern Florida, a region known as the Ablachi Old Fields.

They were in leadership of the Abalachi region, circa 1750-1780 under Chief Tonoby.

During the first Seminole War, 1817-1818, tribal towns from this region were participants in the engagements.

In 1823 the first treaty with the Seminole, the "Treaty of Camp Moultrie", would establish a reservation in central Florida. The Tallahassee refuted the action and did not sign the treaty. Ironically, the Governor's council formed a commission to find a site for the capitol of Florida Territory. While exploring the area, the commission came into contact with Chief Fixico and knowing the

purpose of the visit, he snatched up from the ground a handful of dirt saying, "Is this my land?"

On May 24, 1824 Congress confirmed the site chosen by the Governor's Commission by passing an act to establish the capitol of Florida Territory on the Tallahassee's former homeland, which remains today as the capitol of the state of Florida. The location of the new reservation in central Florida would place the Tallahassee northeast of Tampa. The continuation of the Seminole Wars (1836-1858) would result in many Tallahassee being relocated to Indian Territory.

Other leaders after the removal were Tallobee 1860; Nokus Emartha 1871; Neha Harjo 1879; and Echo Emarthoge 1898.

The Tallahassee are still one of the largest bands with many members in leadership positions, just as their ancestors of old.

### Months of the Year

E C U C H A S A T A P R I L A  
R O K K A R E C H A S A T O U  
E V E N O V E M B E R R K C G  
B O K K A R V K S U W V T O U  
M Y L U J K K K O R K I I V S  
E E Y A E H V Y O R A K K O T  
C A E H E C U Y V H H C R A M  
E L V H O E R Y R A U R B E F  
D S O H H R E B O T C O I O T  
E L V E R V F O E C U S E S V  
E S U U A E C U K S O W V T O  
E E V E S V H E L V T O H T T  
M R J A N U A R Y R R C O H N  
A E E U A A S E P T E M B E R  
Y R V F O R A K K O I J U N E

Word List:			
RVFOECUSE	JANUARY	HOTVLEHVSE	FEBRUARY
TASAHCUCE	MARCH	TASAHCERAKKO	APRIL
KEHVSE	MAY	KVCOHVSE	JUNE
HVYUCE	JULY	HVYORAKKO	AUGUST
OTVWOSKUCE	SEPTEMBER	OTVWUSKVRAKKO	OCTOBER
EHOLE	NOVEMBER	RVFORAKKO	DECEMBER

### “American Flag” by Eddie Barnett

What mysterious legends sparkle in the eyes of an Eagle.  
As if it looks to soar with ease.  
What gives it its graceful, yet power in strength in flight.  
Why is she like a phantom, so mysterious and powerful.  
Yet she is a symbol that shines in the eyes and hearts of one nation,  
of men and women who believe in her.  
The Eagle is a symbol of power and strength,  
one which soars with the life of freedom.  
Her eyes that show fearlessness,  
her talons with gripping power, sharp and mighty.  
Yet the one chosen to stand side by side  
with the one nation, most powerful symbol of all.

If you would like to submit a poem, art work or your favorite recipe. Email us at [media@sno-nsn.gov](mailto:media@sno-nsn.gov)



(above) Seminole Nation wreath laying ceremony at the Seminole Nation Veterans Cemetery.



(Below) Seminole Nation World War II celebration honoring WWII veterans at the Haney Center at the Seminole State College.



# community

ETVLW

## **Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Community Health Representative Program FY 2015 End-Year Report Message to the Indian People Jerome Harrison Program Director**

**Third Quarter Operations and Activities  
(April, May, June)**

During this reporting period, the CHR team worked hard to make this program a more productive entity. In this quarter we helped 60 patients get to their appointment at the Wewoka Indian Health Clinic and to their specialized Dr.'s appointments with a referral from WIHC contract health. We work hard to find time to transport all members in our service area.

In our third quarter we attended a few trainings. The CHR Specialist attended a training hosted by OAA-CHR in Tulsa. Some of the topics covered were self-defense, dialysis, controlling your blood sugar, and elder abuse.

The CHR program partnered with the ASAP program to host a Alcohol/Drug prevention presentation. We had good conversation on how we could help our community and improve on the way we get prevention material out to our tribal people. We hosted our first Senior Olympic this quarter. We had 12 participants attend our Olympics and all were awarded with great prizes and awards for their participation. We hope to make this a yearly event. We also help the WIHC facilitate their senior Olympics.

During this quarter we also helped the WIHC with their diabetes camp held at St. Crispin's. We helped all participants make it safe to their classes. The CHR staff had also participated and facilitated with some physical activity.

We were also able to host some of our own events. We partnered with the Sac & Fox tribe to host a basketball camp in Shawnee at North Rock Creek elementary. We had 2 sessions, 1 for 8-12 year olds and the 2nd for 13-17year olds. Each session we had 30 children participate. We also helped with the Seminole Nation football camp. We were there to assist with the cooling zone. At the end of this quarter we attended a training to help with our PCC forms. This training helps with the understanding on the proper way of filling out our daily report forms. The PCC forms help us keep track of all clients we assist and daily

activity as a CHR.

During this Quarter we had 23 medication pick-up and deliveries. We were also able to accomplish 37 home visits.

Fourth Quarter Operations and Activities (July, August, September)

During this reporting period, the CHR team worked hard to make this program a more productive entity.

In this quarter we helped 70 patients get to their appointment at the Wewoka Indian Health Clinic and to their specialized Dr.'s appointments with a referral from WIHC contract health. We worked hard to find time to transport all members in our service area.

In our fourth quarter we attended a few trainings. The CHR specialist attended a training at the IHS headquarters in Oklahoma City. The training was over PCC Data entry and how services are to be coded and entered. We are working on a new program called Family Spirit. The Family Spirit training was also held at IHS headquarters in Oklahoma City. The Family Spirit Program will give us an opportunity to help young new parents understand the responsibilities of parenthood. We also had CHR's attended Tai-Chi training in Shawnee. We will use this training as an opportunity to take physical fitness in the home during home visits.

During this last quarter, the CHR Program partnered with the Diabetes Program to bring diabetes awareness to our tribal youth. There were two events that were held. One event was the diabetes camp, the CHR took part in the camp by discussing the importance of hydration and how proper hydration can help control glucose levels. Another topic discussed was the 5 components of physical fitness. This topic covered the importance of being physically active to help control glucose and blood pressure. The second event we partnered with the Diabetes Program in the Annual Seminole Nation Basketball Camp held in the summer-time for high school aged students.

During the annual Seminole Nation Days event the CHR Program helped with the 5K. The CHR Program hosted the 3v3 basketball tournament. We had a total of 21 teams. We were also responsible for the cooling station for our elders and first aid if minor attention was needed.

During this Quarter we had 20 medication pick-up and deliveries. We were also able to accomplish 28 home visits.

## **Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program Report to the Indian People Brigita Leader MS, ASAP Director**

Dear Indian People, October is National Recovery Month-"Let's discuss Driving Under the Influence"

If you regularly get behind the wheel while drinking alcohol chances are you will someday be stopped by the police. You will probably be asked to take a roadside sobriety test, a breathalyzer test, a blood or urine test. Your initial reaction might be to do nothing that would incriminate yourself. After all, this is the United States. We all have the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, correct?

You may also be thinking that if they don't have a breath test or blood-alcohol test results to use in court, they will have no evidence that you are intoxicated, so they can never get a conviction. "All you have to do is stick to your story that you only had a couple".

If you take a prescription drug and forgot how many of those you took, "oops", and get behind the wheel, yes, you can now get Driving Under Influence of Drugs-DUI-D. Having worked in a Methadone Clinic in the past, I learned a lot about prescription drug abuse. There are Federal and State drug classification, and drugs are by scheduled classification I through VI, and these classifications identifies the drug as a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS). The Scheduled classification provides description of the level the substance has for potential abuse, if it is currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and it indicates if the drug may lead to low to moderate physical dependence or psychological dependence.

Please take your legal dose that is prescribed to you and keep it in the bottle it was prescribed in. It is your responsibility to know how your drug effects your body, usually there is a warning on your prescription bottle that tells you the drug can affect your driving. Please do not share your prescription with anyone, you don't want to be guilty of distributing any CDS's, this can lead to a felony, also, if you have chronic pain or in need of long term healthcare with your prescriptions, you don't want to jeopardize your prescriptions. Doctors will cut you off if there are any signs of abusing

your prescription in this way.

As a reminder, this leads us into the fact that driving is a privilege, and it is granted by the state you live in through passing through a written and driving test. Understand there is a, "Implied Consent Laws," that exists in every state, and that you sign a promise to abide by certain regulations and laws in your state. In Oklahoma, it is known that you carry a driver's license, and proof of insurance when driving a vehicle. Getting stopped while under the influence, puts us in a position to be subject to questions and refusing to submit to a test can be a violation itself, which can lead to an automatic immediate license suspension.

Today there are more penalties for Driving Under the Influence, such as state mandates for your vehicle to have an "Ignition Interlocking Device" (IID) that can be costly. First time offenders do not have to have an IID installed unless they have refused to take the chemical tests. If that is the case, the device will have to be in place for 18 months after they get their license back. If it is required of you to use one, you will be responsible for installation, monthly rental fees, and get this, if you remove it before you complete your 18 months, you can have your license revoked again. "There is no Win, Win here".

It's the job of our law enforcement officers to keep the roads safe for everyone. If the officer believes that you are intoxicated and a danger to yourself and the public, he can arrest you just because you refused to take the tests. In some states, the officer can immediately confiscate your driver's license as an administrative, not criminal action, because you broke your written promise to submit to such testing when you applied for that license.

Please community members that may be at risk for a DUI, don't jeopardize your driving privileges, employment opportunities, insurance, finances and families. If you have already done that, come and visit us for a referral for the DUI assessments and DUI classes. ASAP program wants you to get back on track with your life, you deserve it, you are someone's son or daughter, mom or dad, aunt, uncle or grandparent, and so this makes you an important part of our Seminole community.

ASAP program started a DUI program in April 2015, currently we have served 11 clients for assessments, and about 6 of those have completed their classes, some did not need classes, and one got

continued ASAP on page 8



# community

ETVLW

## ASAP

continued from page 8

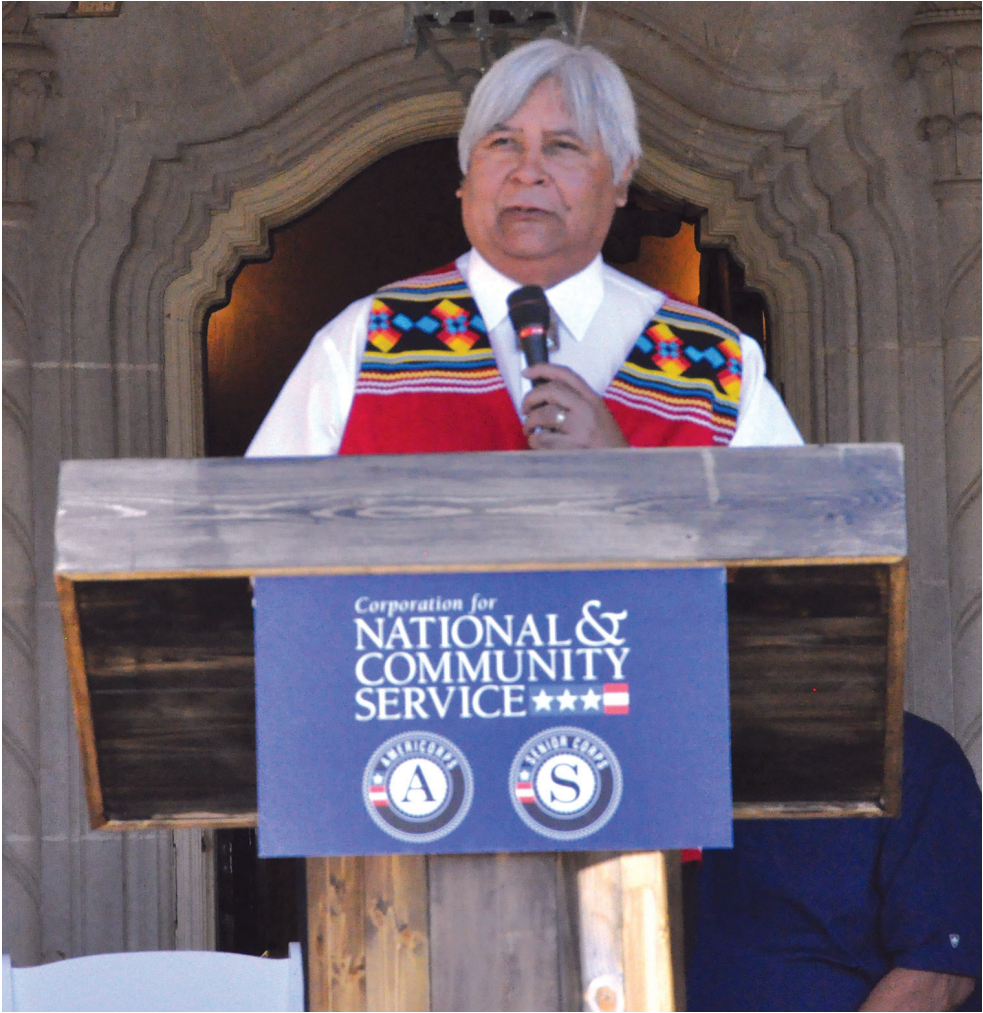
those classes waived due to attending treatment while incarcerated and some are waiting to complete their classes, due to working around work schedule, transportation, etc. You can contact the Department of Motor Vehicle at this number (405) 521-3221, for what it will take for your license to be re-instated.

ASAP program is an outpatient substance abuse prevention program offers substance abuse education. We currently have about 8 consistent clients for groups and counseling and 3 in residential treatment facilities. We need to increase all our substance abuse education groups, both men's and women's groups, we can potentially have up to 10 people in a group. We are approved for signatures on hours required by drug courts systems and probation and parole.

Please join us; let us help with your recovery process. Please know it is a process for treatment, our program offers outpatient substance abuse education, and we utilize the Tribal facilities by different tribes for residential treatment unfortunately the majority of them are limited only for alcohol related issues. When there is a higher care issue, such as mental health and substance abuse, we may refer out to local counseling agencies. Currently, Oklahoma has one treatment locator that all agencies have to go through to identify a bed for treatment. Here is a number for locating resources in our state, that number is 211 and Oklahoma Department of Mental health Services number is the Reach Out line at 800-522-9054.

Last but not least, Please join us on our Red Ribbon Week "Fun Walk", on October 17, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., at the Mekusukey Mission grounds. This year's the theme is "Keep Calm and Say No". This walk is in support of our community members and families recovery, our hope for a healthier and better lives. So bring your families and let's learn how we can "Keep Calm, and learn how to say No" to things that can have a negative impact on our lives. MVTO!

**SEMINOLE NATION  
ALCOHOL SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE PROGRAM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL (405) 382-2743**



## ASAP host GONA Camp

Joe Clay  
Staff Writer  
clay.j@sno-nsn.gov

The Seminole Nation Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program put on their Annual Gatherings of Native American camp August 3-7, 2015 at St. Crispins Conference Center in Seminole. There were 60 parents and youth that attended the family-camp. The campers were taught about hope, encouragement, fun for families, native wellness, healing, building community, planning for success, humor and historical trauma. The participants also enjoyed activities such as swimming, stick ball, learning Seminole patchwork and yarn belts.

They also had motivational speaker Brian Frejo, who is a Seminole tribal member, come speak to the

campers.

ASAP director Brigita Leader said, "We want to motivate and empower them, and tell them we don't all have to be alike." Brigita also shared with the campers that they are Seminole people with their own talents and gifts.

The camp wants the participants to identify with who they are. If they know who they are and where they belong, they have a support system that cares about them and then are likely to have less problems. One of the campers said the camp is fun and he has been canoeing and swimming. Another camper said he has enjoyed swimming and cooking some s'mores.

There were many tribal members who have been helping with the

## New Grant for Foster Grandparent Program

Cokv Tvlvme  
Staff Report  
media@sno-nsn.gov

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps, and the Seminole Nation today announced a first-ever federal grant to support a new Seminole Nation Foster Grandparent Program. The Foster Grandparent Program will provide resources that will contribute to school readiness and improve academic performance and engagement for youth in the Tribal Court System.

The federal agency announced \$450,000 in new funding to support up to 50 Foster Grandparents annually over the next three years. The federal investment is projected to generate an additional \$50,000 in local support to increase community impact and return on federal investment. The goal of this program is to provide a strong support network of Foster Grandparents to children in the system and at-risk children.

"We are thrilled to announce the first-ever Foster Grandparent Program for the Seminole Nation," said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "For generations, seniors have been making a powerful impact in their communities, and their service is more important now than ever. We congratulate the Seminole Nation for their strong application and thank Chief Harjo for his dedication to the future of our young people."

Foster Grandparents will serve as mentors to children in the Tribal Court System, providing in-school and after-school tutoring, cultural activities, and guidance. The program will provide community-based mentoring at community sites, such as parks, community centers, libraries, and conference rooms. Foster Grandparents will also provide school-based mentoring to assist with increasing attendance.

"I am pleased that we will finally be able to offer this service opportunity to our Seminole elders," said Seminole Chief Harjo. "The positive impact they will have as Foster Grandparents on the lives of our youth is unmeasurable."

camp and one was Seminole Nation tribal member Bertha Tilkins, she said "I've been showing the campers how the old ways were and we fit in to society as Native Americans and giving them a little history." She also said your Native American, be proud and you have talents so develop them and don't let anyone tell you that you can't accomplish something."

The camp concluded August 7, with a talking circle, and prayer.



# education

NAK-KERRETU



Joe Clay, SN Communications

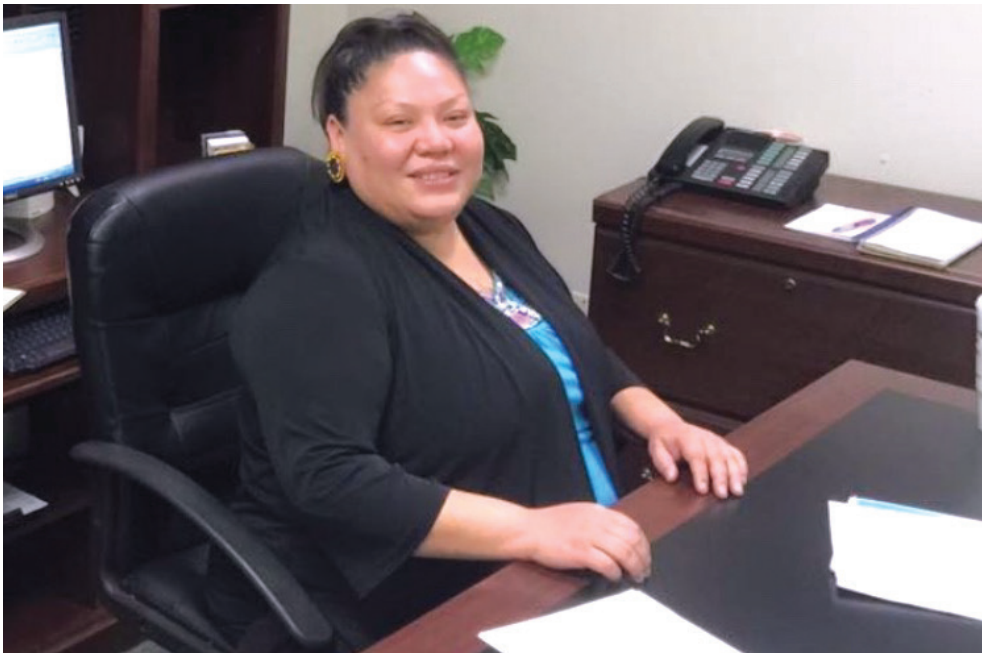
## Owl awarded GED certificate

Cokv Tvlvme  
Staff Report  
media@sno-nsn.gov

Seminole Nation tribal member Kendra S. Owl completed all four General Education Development exams and passed. Owl was awarded her Certificate of Completion on September 24, 2015. Kendra's future plan is to become a Licensed

Practical Nurse.

Owl was determined to get her GED certificate, she came to class regularly, did her homework and it paid off for her. Seminole Nation Adult Education director, Clara Keawphalouk, said she is very happy and proud for Kendra and wishes her the best of her future endeavors.



## Yahola interns with Greenwood at Tulsa Chamber of Commerce

Cokv Tvlvme  
Staff Report  
media@sno-nsn.gov

Kimberly C. Yahola is a full-blood member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Bear Clan Family, HVTEYIEVLKE (Newcomer) Band. Kimberly, her husband, Malhon Morris, Sr., and their son, Malhon, Jr., reside in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Yahola is a full-time student at Langston University-Tulsa, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. As part of her studies, she is currently interning with the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce in Tulsa's historic Greenwood District, the famed "Black Wall Street," and is grateful to her academic advisor, Dr. Art Williams, for affording her this placement.

Yahola strives to pass along the traditional beliefs and ways of her tribe to the next generation. She works to educate her son and others about traditional Native American culture, the importance of maintaining it, and the imperative to pass it along to future generations.

Kimberly relishes the opportunity to learn about the rich history of the Greenwood District, history too often missing from textbooks, particularly since much of Native American history remains outside the mainstream, too.

**Seminole Nation Career Services**  
**For more information call:**  
**(405) 257-7200**



## Pre-K student excels at school

Cokv Tvlvme  
Staff Report  
media@sno-nsn.gov

Seminole Nation tribal member, Taylor Peyton Fields was awarded Student of the Month for September 2015 at Capital Hill Elementary in Oklahoma City. Fields is in Pre-K and her teachers are Mrs. Kroupa and Ms. Delora.

Taylor's selection to represent Mrs. Kroupa and Ms. Delora's Pre-K Class as Student of the Month was based on Taylor excelling in her academic and social skills.

Her considerate and well-mannered behavior, not only toward her teachers, but also in her input in group assimilation to achieve a class goal, displayed adept leadership abilities for one so young. Combine this attribute with Taylor's optimism in participating in school activities while encouraging others to do the same, are prominent traits of a leader and not just a follower.

For these exemplary qualities, Capital Elementary is proud to have Taylor Peyton Fields represent, as a model student, the Kroupa and Delora Pre-K Class for the month of September, 2015.

Taylor is of the Tusekia Harjo Band and Bear Clan.



## Tiger nominated to Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders

Cokv Tvlvme  
Staff Report  
media@sno-nsn.gov

Seminole Nation tribal member Jowina Tiger was nominated to the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is a highly selective national program honoring academically superior high school students. Students have to have a GPA of 3.5 or higher to attend this event.

Tiger is a freshman at Seminole High School. During her 7th and 8th grade years, she was chosen as Student of the Month. Jowina is currently taking pre-AP courses. She is involved in volleyball, basketball and slow pitch softball. Tiger aspires to work in forensics or law enforcement.

Tiger is the daughter of Erica

Tiger and the granddaughter of Leo and Madeline Tiger. Jowina is an active member of Vcnv Hutche Tvlse, New Tulsa Ceremonial ground. She is Beaver Clan and Tom Palmer band.

**Seminole Nation  
Higher Ed  
GED Classes  
Every Tuesday and  
Thursday  
For more  
information call:  
Clara Keawphalouk  
(405) 257-7263**



in memoriam

RA VKERRICETV

Frank Johnson



Funeral services for Frank Johnson were held Friday, July 3rd at Cold Springs Baptist Church with Rev. David Harjo and Rev. Johnny Hicks officiating. Interment followed at Emarthle Cemetery.

Frank passed away Tuesday, June 30, 2015 in Seminole, Oklahoma. He was 64. Frank was born on December 27, 1950 in Talihina, Oklahoma to Newman Johnson and Eliza (Emarthle) Johnson. Frank served in the U.S. Army from April, 1970 to April, 1976. He received an Associate Degree in Sociology, and worked as a Materials Handler for the Indian Health Services. Frank was a member of the Cold Springs Baptist Church and played bass guitar.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Newman and Eliza Johnson and one brother, Isaac Johnson.

Survivors include the mother of his children, Linda Sulphur Bear of Okemah, Okla.; one son, Jarod Johnson of Okemah; one daughter, Janet Johnson of Shawnee, Okla.; three sisters, Susie Buchanan and Sally Johnson, both of Konawa, and Lucy George of Holdenville, Okla.; and two grandchildren, Eliza and Avery.

Pallbearers included Jeremy Alberson, Billy Alberson, Bruce Douglas, Skip Foster, Jeremiah Maylen, David Lankford, Jimpsey Factor, and Thomas Yahola.

Honorary pallbearers were Russell Johnson, Mike Johnson, Chris Buchanan, William George, Ronnie George, Eric George, Stormy George, and Harper Givens. The funeral services were under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home of Konawa.



Betsy Ann Johnson

Funeral services for Betsy Ann Johnson were held Monday, September 28, 2015 at the Pentecostal Church of God in Konawa with Rev. Arthur Carpitcher and Rev. Johnny Campbell officiating. Interment followed at Vamoosa Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home of Konawa.

Betsy passed away Friday, September 25, 2015 at Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, Okla. She was 69.

Betsy was born October 6, 1945 in Konawa to William Wolf and Stella (Morgan) Wolf. She attended Konawa schools and became a cook for the Konawa Head Start program. Betsy was a member of the Pentecostal Church of God.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Stella Wolf; her husband, Isaac Johnson; and one daughter, Lanita Johnson.

Survivors include one son, Michael Johnson of the home; two daughters, Beverly Givens and husband, Harper Givens of Konawa, and Sandra Johnson of the home; one adopted brother, Timothy Wolf of Maud, Okla.; and one grandchild, Flo Wise.

Pallbearers were Calvin Harjo, Paul Impson, Tommy Walters, Ron Lunsford, Shane Impson, and Russell Johnson. Honorary Pallbearers are Harper Givens, Ronnie George, and Eric George.



Glen Harjo

Funeral services for Glen Harjo were held Saturday, September 26, 2015 at the Middlecreek # 2 Church west of Holdenville. Interment followed at the Church cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home of Seminole.

Glen passed away Tuesday, September 22, 2015 in Ada, Okla. He was 64.

Glen was born December 12, 1950 in San Francisco, California to Reverend V.V. Harjo and Bonnie Mae (Walker) Harjo. Glen attended and graduated from Bowlegs High School in 1969. He attended and graduated from Seminole Junior College in 1988. He had also attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas and East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Glen was a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, member of the Tusekia Harjo Band and the Wind Clan.

Glen was an electronic technician for several companies, a troubleshooter and did repairs on different types of electronic equipment. He retired from Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma as a boiler operator.

Glen enjoyed spending time and laughing with his friends, listening to blues music, playing pool, watching football, playing golf and enjoyed all sports and especially coconut cream pie.

Glen was known to his family as “Uncle Glen”.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Orvella Harjo, brother Vincent Harjo and sisters, Colleen and Brenda Harjo.

Survivors include his sisters; Cynthia Harjo Yerby and her husband Monty of Wolf,

Oklahoma, Christi Harjo Woodard and her husband Eric Lee of Oklahoma City, Okla., his brother Anthony Wayne Harjo and his wife Lori of Bowlegs, Okla., niece Sydney Woodard, nephews, Josh Yerby, Matt Yerby, Jayden Harjo, and Reese Woodard, great-nephew Jaxton Yerby, and great-niece Madilyn Yerby.

Casket bearers were Josh Yerby, Matt Yerby, Gene Harjo, James Kimbrough, Paul Engel, Jayden Harjo, Randy Beaver and Mark Beaver. Honorary bearers will be Sandy Jones, Bill Taylor Vic Gutierrez and Joe Wise.



Tom Franklin Harjo

Funeral services for Tom Franklin Harjo were held Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel in Seminole, with military honors and Rev. George Harjocee officiating.

Tom passed away Friday, September 18, 2015 at his home in Earlsboro. He was 70 years old.

He was born July 7, 1945 in Seminole, Oklahoma to parents Edward Harjo and Leah Harjo.

Tom graduated from Vamoosa High School in 1965. He went on to serve in the United States Army. Tom and Irene Tanyan were married for 36 years and made their home in Earlsboro, Oklahoma. He retired from Hayes Axel in Seminole several years ago.

Tom was preceded in death by his father, Edward Harjo; by his mother, Leah Harjo; by one son, Tom Franklin Harjo, Jr.; by one brother, Alex Larney; and by two sisters, JoAnn Harjo and Mary West.

Survivors include his wife, Irene (Tanyan) Harjo; three sons, Ronnie Tanyan and his wife Jill Tanyan of Muskogee, Okla., Garrett Meely of Earlsboro, Okla., Maddex Harjo of Earlsboro, Oklahoma; six daughters, Robin Cloud Reeves and her husband Rick Reeves of Tecumseh, Okla., Ericka Harjo of Shawnee, Okla., Dana Ahaisse Lingle and her husband Thomas Lingle of Moore, Okla., Kim Hill of Shawnee, Okla., Kelly Wood of Earlsboro, Okla., Teri Harjo Cooper and her husband Donovan Cooper of Earlsboro, Okla.; one sister, Christine Hotulke of Seminole, Okla.; 16 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and a host of other family and dear friends.

Pallbearers were Dominic Cloud, Tyler Harjo, Dakota Harjo, Brandon

Harjo, Michael Tanyan, Josh Tanyan, Stevie Creek, Ty Reeves, Cody Reeves, Ronnie Tanyan, Garrett Meely, Thomas Lingle, Rick Reeves, Wesley Tanyan, John Tanyan, Thomas Billie, Jr., Clifton Tanyan and Jerome Tiger.

Services are under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home in Seminole, Okla.



Wynema Coody

Funeral services for Wynema Coody were held Thursday, September 3, 2015 at the Chapel. Interment followed at Vamoosa Cemetery with Faren Coody and Jimsey Harjo officiating.

Wynema passed away Saturday, August 29, 2015 at Integris Hospice House in Oklahoma City surrounded by her family. She was 47 years old. Wynema was born on February 11, 1968 in Lawton, Oklahoma to Roger Coody and Edith (Cully) Coody. She graduated from Konawa High School and was the Headstart Supervisor for the Seminole Nation. Wynema enjoyed spending time with her nieces and nephews. She also enjoyed watching sports. She was baptized at Tallahase at a young age.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Roger and Edith Coody; one son, Frank Tyson Coody; grandparents, Sam and Eunice Cully; one brother, Frankie Cully; and one nephew, Baby Boy Coody. Survivors include two brothers, “R.D.” Randolph Coody and wife, Wanda of Konawa and Stanley Coody of Konawa; two nephews, Roger and Jason of Tulsa; one niece, Sheyenne Coody; and a host of family and friends

Pallbearers were Tanis Gonzelez, Bo Honsinger, Darryl Chosa, Rick Pemberton, Danny Howell, Tommy Tilley, and Clint Hanks. Honorary pallbearers are Travis Hunter, Thomas Lindsey, George Tiger, Bruce Cully, Kevin Chapman, Jordan Fixico, and Harold Cully.



# tribal news

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## address

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been pursuing that claim. We have lost every effort to pursue that claim in the Indian Claims Commission and the federal courts. We were advised in the 1990s and an effort was made by the council at that time to pursue a congressional solution to the restoration and ultimately settlement of that claim. This claim we all commonly call the mineral claim. It is likely that our advisors will tell us as we move forward that going to Congress is again our only solution. To succeed in Congress as a people of the Seminole Nation, we are going to have to go back to Congress and we are going to have to with ideas and thoughts that are different than what we have clung to for the last 100 years. We're going to have to go united in a way that we never been united to succeed. The mineral claim in Congress will require a dedicated alliance of all Seminole citizens, members by blood and our Freedman citizens as well. Without that we have no chance of succeeding and bringing that claim to a successful conclusion.

As Chief Johnson mentioned we are going to be asking the collective leadership, the executive office and members of the general council. Seeking your input as our people as how best to accomplish the coalition and the united presentation to Congress that's going to be necessary to achieve this successful goal. This claimed was valued in 1963 at \$93 million, everyone of us here knows that since 1963-2015 they have continued to pump oil and gas out of the Seminole Nation and during that time we should have been receiving one half of the mineral interest for all the years when oil was over \$100 even now when oil is down \$20-\$30 a barrel. Conservative estimates today would place the value of this claim in the excess of \$250 million and if nothing else the pursuit of that claim and what it could bring to you the people of the Seminole Nation both as individuals and collectively. We need to be willing and able to consider and reconsider any position that we have to insure that we present the best opportunity for Congress to agree to settle this claim to your benefit. To place the Seminole Nation on a solid growth path in future years as I mentioned, bold decisive action will be needed and we must place equal emphasis on the keys to success as well as the risk to failure. We must allow and possession ourselves to succeed. We

will continue to work on the challenges that we face as your leadership and we appreciate all that you all do to help us move forward. Your prayers and your kind words gives us support whenever we see you. There's still the opportunity for the Seminole Nation to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and with your help and your support as Seminole people we have the leadership assembled on stage to make that happen. Mvto.

**Seminole Nation tribal member Wayne Holata, throws out the first pitch for the Oklahoma City Dodgers at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ball Park in Bricktown earlier this season.**



## Winery receives funding from REI



Cokv Tvlvme  
Staff Report  
media@sno-nsn.gov

The Seminole Nation Vineyard & Winery received funding Monday, August 31st for startup and capital through a loan from REI Business Lending for \$330,000.

With the acquisition of the Grisso Mansion in August of 2012, the Seminole Nation became the owner of a small vineyard which was producing award winning wine. In the past three years, the Seminole Nation began planning and development property and expansion of the vineyard and winery. The Seminole Nation established the Seminole Nation Vineyard and Winery, LLC in June of 2014. The Mission of the Seminole Nation Vineyard and Winery is to create economic viability and diversify tribal resources by responsibly producing, promoting, and distributing artisan wines; providing a stable alternative crop production; and developing new opportunities for the Seminole Nation, tribal citizens and community members in agricultural production and enterprise.

In August of 2014, the Seminole Nation was awarded a five-year, \$2.4

million grant from the Administration for Native Americans Social, Employment & Economic Development Strategies Grant to develop a 63 acres of tribal vineyards for the Seminole Nation and train up to 40 individual landowners.

The wine industry has seen a rapid increase in the number of wineries that are being established throughout the country. Wineries are classified as one of the fastest growing segments in agriculture with an annual growth of 10-15 wineries per year. According to the National Wine & Grape Initiative, wine tourism is becoming a major attraction of US citizens with an estimated 29 million visitors in the US in 2012. SNVW will market its product to bring tourists to the area while providing a boost to the local economy. Production will begin off-site on the 10-acre SNVW property located north of Seminole. The winery will then expand to an on-site tasting room at the Grisso Mansion and keeping in line with the integrity and character of the mansion.

With the support of REI Business Lending, the Seminole Nation Vineyard and Winery has a unique niche to market wine with other tribes that

no other winery in the region has: a tribally grown and tribally produced wine made in Indian Country. This will also create a need for locally grown grapes and allows for the development of agricultural lands owned by the tribal and non-tribal community. This is an exciting step for the Seminole Nation to further expand economic development while creating much needed entrepreneurial opportunities for the area. The Seminole Nation can now expand into the profitable market of the US wine market boom and significantly spur economic development in the surrounding communities.

A Certified Development Company of the U.S. Small Business Administration, REI Business Lending offers business loans ranging from one thousand to over ten million. By offering direct loans and partnering with private sector lenders to provide SBA 504 loans, the organization has lending programs to accommodate businesses of all sizes throughout Oklahoma. REI Business Lending serves as the financing division of REI Oklahoma, a state-wide non-profit economic development firm.

**Please send us  
your tribal news  
that you have  
going on in your  
community:  
media@sno-nsn.gov**





General Council Member Dewayne Miller speaking at the Seminole Nation Independence Celebration

# Observing Seminole Nation Independence Day Celebration

Joe Clay  
Staff Writer  
clay.j@sno-nsn.gov

The Seminole Nation Independence Day Celebration was August 7, 2015 at the Mekusukey Mission in Seminole. The Seminole Nation celebrated in observance of the treaty of 1856 which provided the Seminoles their original homeland in Indian Territory. The Seminole Nation hosted a dinner and a historical program at the council house at the Mekusukey Mission.

There were over 75 people who attended the event. There was a historical video that played at the beginning of the program and Seminole Nation General Council member Dewayne Miller spoke as well as Seminole Nation Assistant Tusekia band chief Rodney Factor and Assistant Chief Lewis Johnson. August 7, 1856 is when the Seminole Nation officially became the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Here is a brief history leading up to the Treaty of 1856.

As tribal leaders surrendered during the war, their followers immigrated to the Indian Territory under military escort. The first were led by Chief Hohahti Emathla in the summer of 1836. His party, who had lost many of their number by death during the two month journey, located north of the Canadian River, in present Hughes County. Their settlement was known by the name of their influential leader, Black Dirt (Fukeluste Harjo).

In June, soon after the arrival of Chief Mikanopy at Fort Gibson, council was held with the Creek of the Lower Towns. When the matter of location of the Seminole was discussed, Chief Mikanopy and the Seminole leaders refused to settle in any part of the Creek Nation other than the tract assigned them under the treaty of 1833. A treaty signed by the U.S., and delegations of the Seminole and Creek Nations in 1845 paved the way for adjustment of the trouble that had arisen between the two tribes. The Seminole could settle anywhere in the Creek country, they

could have their own town government, but under the general laws of the Creek Nation.

By 1849 the Seminole settlements were located in the valley of the Deep Fork south to the Canadian in what is now the western part of Okfuskee and Hughes counties, and neighboring parts of Seminole County. The revered Chief Mikanopy, who represented the ancient Oconee, died in 1849. He was succeeded by his nephew, Jim Jumper, who was soon succeeded by John Jumper, who came to Indian Territory as a prisoner of war. He became one of the great men in Seminole history and ruled as chief until 1877, when he then resigned to devote all his time to his church. Wild Cat, the principal advisor to Chief Mikanopy during his last years, never accepted being under the rule of the Creek Nation. Although his views won out in the end under the Treaty of 1856, he made no profit from it, because six years earlier he left the Indian Territory to start a Seminole colony in Mexico.

By 1868, the refugee tribal bands were finally able to settle in the area that is known as the Seminole Nation. For the first time in 75 years they had a chance of establishing tribal solidarity. Their council house was built at We-woka, designated capital of the Seminole Nation.

When the Seminole people made their last settlement in Indian Territory, eight tribal square grounds were established in different parts of the nation where the old ceremonials, dances and ball games were held. Two of these square grounds were known as Tallahasutci or (Tallahasse) and Thliwathli or (Therwarthle). There is still a loose organization of the twelve Seminole "towns" or "bands" that were organized for political and geographical reasons in re-establishing the tribal government that had formerly existed in Florida.

# Veterans' Corner

K. Galen Greenwalt  
Veterans Service Director  
greenwalt.g@sno-nsn.gov

SEPTEMBER 2015

This column is an information source for all veterans in the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Please share this with those who have served in our military forces, both past and present. Please feel free to come by the Veterans Services Office during the week, or give us a call at (405) 234-5242 to ask questions or make an appointment. My email address here at the office is greenwalt.g@sno-nsn.gov and you are welcome to contact me by email.

## WHO IS A VETERAN?

The question is asked many times, "Who exactly is a veteran?" A veteran is anyone who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, both combat and non-combat service. So, the question we ask is, "Have you served in the military?" If the answer is "yes," then you are a veteran! Our office is here to help you.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

In these past several months, Galen has been in meetings with the Veterans Committee, the Cemetery Committee, and other groups and individuals to promote and expand the services for Seminole Nation veterans in particular. He has visited the offices of U.S. Senator Lankford, Governor Mary Fallin, and the Group Sales director for the OKC Dodgers baseball organization. In addition, there have been several meetings in the past months with Mary Culley (Tribal Govt. Relations Specialist, U.S. Dept. of Veterans), as well as Candy Klumpp (Native American Nurse Navigator, VA Hospital, OKC). Also, Galen was part of the Community Outreach event at the BIA Building in Seminole, and he was a partner in the Warriors Resource and Benefit Enrollment Fair earlier this month. The Veterans Affairs office has been assisting in many areas: Military records (including DD-214s), signup for VA Healthcare, tracking and filing disability claims, employment information, rides to doctors and clinics, education benefits, veterans license tags, taxes, court services, veterans events, and distribution of VA Entitlement Handbooks.

## SPIRIT OF '45 AND WWII COMMEMORATION EVENTS

On August 14, 1945, the final peace treaty was signed to end World War II. We were asked to participate and schedule events to commemorate the WWII Victory 70th Year Anniversary. On August 15, we had a Celebration and Concert at the Haney Center of Seminole State College. The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Color Guard brought in the colors, and the Seminole Nation princesses were present also. A special time of recognition of all veterans was held, with particular emphasis on the WWII veterans in attendance. A special singing group from California named "DESIAH" gave a wonderful patriotic concert. Maj.Gen. Myles Deering, Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Oklahoma, was the guest speaker. On Sunday morning, August 16, a special ceremony was held at the Seminole Nation National Cemetery with the tribal Honor Guard and special speaker, Principal Chief Leonard Harjo.

## WARRIORS RESOURCE AND BENEFIT ENROLLMENT FAIR

The Warriors Resource Fair was held at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community



Center on Tuesday, September 15, from 9 am – 3 pm. Assistance will be given in many areas of interest to veterans – VA healthcare enrollment, home loan referrals, VA cemetery needs, employment guidance, homeless healthcare, housing discussions and much more. Many compliments were given as to the quality of the services rendered at this event.

## VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER PROGRAM

The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Veterans Affairs Department has joined with other groups across the country to be a Commemorative Partner with the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Program. We will begin to plan events and activities that will recognize Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor and sacrifice. It will also be a time to pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by many here in the U.S. during the Vietnam Era.

## TRIBAL AND VETERANS CEMETERY

Tommy Hawkins, Cemetery Sexton, has been working for the tribe to develop the grounds and improve maintenance. The plans are moving forward to develop a comprehensive Tribal Cemetery and Burial Grounds proposal in the near future. There have been many acquisitions recently: Excavator, Gator, Lawn Mowers, Weed Eaters, and other equipment. New flags have replaced the previous set at the cemetery. A youth intern was also used for the summer, helping with cemetery grounds keeping and maintenance. Last month, Tommy attended the Caretaker Training offered by the U.S. Department for Veterans Cemeteries located in St. Louis, Missouri.

## REMINDER: "SILENT WARRIORS" GROUP MEETINGS

All veterans are encouraged to be a part of our "Silent Warriors" group meetings which are twice a month. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, starting at 5 pm. It is a time for veterans of all time frames, combat and non-combat, to talk, listen and share in a relaxed atmosphere of camaraderie and discussion of common experiences concerning military life. All those who have prior military service are welcome! Call our office if you need more information or have any questions. In addition, a unique Female Veterans Group Session is being held on the fourth Thursday of each month, being held at the Grisso Mansion on Hwy 9 in Seminole.

## VETERANS BENEFITS BOOKLET

The Veterans Office here has acquired copies of the booklet entitled Know Your Benefits: Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors, 2014 Edition. They are available FREE to anyone who would like a copy. Many have already called our office and been given a copy.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

For more information or conversation about any VA issues, please contact us here at the Veterans Services Office at (405) 234-5242.



47th Annual  
Seminole Nation Days  
September 17-20, 2015













